

## CLAIMS

1. A method of establishing which control area shown on a display of a computing device  
5 has been selected by a user, in which each of several different selectable control areas is  
associated with one of a set of unique colors in a color mask stored in device memory, the color  
mask being made up of regions that each correspond to one of the control areas and are each  
colored in one of the unique colors;

comprising the steps of:

- 10 (a) generating a set of co-ordinates for a contact location on the display;  
(b) retrieving the color mask color at that set of co-ordinates;  
(c) establishing the control area which is associated with the same color as the  
retrieved color.

15 2. The method of Claim 1 in which the color mask is obtained using a bit map of the control  
areas.

3. The method of Claim 2 in which a table of the set of unique colors is stored in device  
memory, together with a reference to each associated selectable control area.

20 4. The method of Claim 3 in which each of the unique colors in the table is represented as  
an unsigned integer.

5. The method of Claim 4 in which each of the unique colors in the color mask is  
25 represented as an unsigned integer and the unsigned integer representing the color at the set of  
co-ordinates is compared against each unsigned integer in the table until a match is found.

6. The method of Claim 5 in which, when a match is found, the corresponding selectable  
control area is then established using the table.

7. The method of Claim 1 in which a selectable control area can be any arbitrary shape so long as the color mask region corresponding to that arbitrary shape can be filled with a single color.

5 8. The method of Claim 2 in which the arrangement or design of the different selectable control areas is updatable to a different arrangement or design by altering the bit map of the control areas and the color mask.

9. The method of Claim 8 in which altering the bit map of the control areas and the color  
10 mask is performed using a paint application.

10. A computing device adapted to establish which control area shown on a display of the computing device has been selected by a user, in which each of several different selectable control areas is associated with one of a set of unique colors in a color mask stored in device  
15 memory, the color mask being made up of regions that each correspond to one of the control areas and are each colored in one of the unique colors; the device being adapted to:

(a) generate a set of co-ordinates for a contact location on the display;  
(b) retrieve the color mask color at that set of co-ordinates;  
(c) establish the control area which is associated with the same color as the retrieved  
20 color.

11. The device of Claim 10 in which the color mask is obtained using a bit map of the control areas.

25 12. The device of Claim 11 in which a table of the set of unique colors is stored in device memory, together with a reference to each associated selectable control area.

13. The device of Claim 12 in which each of the unique colors in the table is represented as an unsigned integer.

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14. The device of Claim 13 in which each of the unique colors in the color mask is represented as an unsigned integer and the unsigned integer representing the color at the set of co-ordinates is compared against each unsigned integer in the table until a match is found.

5 15. The device of Claim 14 which, when a match is found, establishes the corresponding selectable control area using the table.

16. The device of Claim 10 in which a selectable control area can be any arbitrary shape so long as the color mask region corresponding to that arbitrary shape can be filled with a single  
10 color.

17. Application software programmed to run on a computing device, in which the application software causes each of several different selectable control areas to be displayed on the device and comprises a color mask, the color mask being made up of regions that each correspond to  
15 one of the control areas and are each colored in a unique color.